Patent Public Advisory Committee Meeting

USPTO Petitions

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Within the Patents Organization:

- Office of Petitions
- Office of Patent Legal Administration
- PCT Legal Administration
- Technology Centers (TC’s)
  - TC Directors
  - Supervisory Patent Examiners (SPE’s)
  - Primary Patent Examiners
  - Quality Assurance Specialists (QAS’s)
- Office of Patent Application Processing (OPAP/OIPE)
- Office of Data Management (ODM/Pubs)
- Central Re-Exam Unit
Outside the Patents Organization:

- Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences
- Office of the General Counsel
- Office of Enrollment and Discipline
Various types of Petitions and Requests

• Abandoned Applications
  – Withdrawal of holding of abandonment - decided in TC and OP
  – Revival - decided in TC and OP

• Pending Application
  – Supervisory review - decided in TC, BPAI, CRU, OP

• Allowed Applications
  – Withdrawal from issue - decided in OP, processed in ODM

• Issued Patents
  – Maintenance Fees - decided in OP
  – Correct inventorship (37 CFR 1.324) - decided in TC

*List here is not exhaustive – see MPEP §1000
Volume of Petition Decisions

Petitions By Business Unit

Decisions

FY

2008 2009 2010 2011 2012

Business Unit

OTHER PCT TC OP

0 10000 20000 30000 40000 50000 60000 70000
Automation

- e-Petition
  - Immediate grant if all requirements met
  - Eliminate back and forth between Office and petitioner over informalities
  - Existing staff used to decide other petitions
Automation (cont’d)

• PE2E

  – Eliminate paper in Office of Petitions

  – Dissemination of petition decisions
Thank You